

## Message Text

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46

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 ISO-00 EUR-25 AEC-11 OMB-01 INT-08

SCEM-02 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 FPC-01 SS-20

NSC-10 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 XMB-07 DRC-01 /185 W

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R 021312Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8855

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENEG, TECH, SF

SUBJ: ROUX COMMENTS ON SA URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROJECT

REF: PRETORIA 3836

1. IN RAND DAILY MAIL PRESS INTERVIEW PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2, DR. A.J.A. ROUX, CHAIRMAN SA ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD AND PRESIDENT UCOR, CORROBORATED RECENT STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF MINES KOORNHOF (REFTEL) THAT SA PILOT ENRICHMENT PLANT WOULD BE ABLE PRODUCE ENRICHED PRODUCT MORE CHEAPLY THAN ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED. ROUX ESTIMATED THAT ENERGY REQUIREMENTS OF PILOT PLANT WOULD BE REDUCED BY 25 PERCENT WITHIN NEXT 18 MONTHS THUS REDUCING PRODUCTION COSTS TO APPROXIMATELY 30 PERCENT BELOW GASEOUS DIFFUSION. HE ADDED THAT PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT ENERGY REQUIREMENTS OF SA ENRICHMENT PROCESS WILL EVENTUALLY BE REDUCED BY ABOUT 50 PERCENT.

2. ROUX STRESSED THAT WHILE CAPITAL COSTS PER STATE OF SA PROCESS ARE GREATER THAN THOSE FOR GASEOUS DIFFUSION, SA PROCESS REQUIRES FAR FEWER STAGES FOR SAME GRADE OF ENRICHMENT. THUS,  
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HE SAID, CAPITAL COSTS OF A PLANT BASED ON SA PROCESS WOULD

BE LESS THAN 65 PERCENT OF THOSE FOR GASEOUS DIFFUSION FACILITY  
OF SAME CAPACITY.

3. ARTICLE NOTED THAT WHEN SA URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROJECT FIRST  
ANNOUNCED, OVERSEAS OBSERVERS EXPRESSED DOUBTS RE EFFICACY OF  
PROCESS, BUT THAT SA CLAIMS ARE QTE NOW (RPT NOW) BEING ACCEPTED  
IN JAPAN AND GERMANY UNQTE.

4. IN INTERVIEW, ROUX ALSO NOTED DR. EDWARD TELLER'S RECENT  
STATEMENTS THAT THORIUM POSSIBLY MAJOR REACTOR FUEL OF FUTURE  
AND COMMENTED THAT THORIUM NOT (RPT NOT) AS PLENTIFUL AS HAD  
BEEN SUGGESTED. THUS, ROUX INDICATED, ROLE OF URANIUM IN MEETING  
WORLD POWER NEEDS NOT IN QUESTION.  
HURD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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